

Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the staff and owners of The Saint Paul Hotel on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary, which will be celebrated this weekend on April 17th.

Since its grand opening on April 18th, 1910, The Saint Paul Hotel has served as a geographic and cultural landmark for Minnesota's capital city, as well as a gathering place for Saint Paul's many visitors and residents.

In 1908 local businessman Lucius P. Ordway recognized the need for a major hotel in the growing commercial hub of Saint Paul. Mr. Ordway partnered with the city's Business League to purchase a parcel of land near downtown Saint Paul's Rice Park and finance the hotel's construction. Less than two years later, the Saint Paul Hotel was opened for business. It immediately was recognized as the premier hotel in the region, and less than one month after its grand opening celebration the hotel was named "Best in the West" by the National Hotelman's Association.

After falling into disrepair in the 1950s, civic and business leaders undertook an extensive renovation to return the hotel to its original glory between 1981 and 1982. Since then, The Saint Paul Hotel has won dozens more awards for outstanding service and accommodations, and it has become, once again, one of the foremost luxury hotels in the Midwest.

Throughout its history, The Saint Paul Hotel has hosted a number of American Presidents, foreign dignitaries and heads of state, performing artists, writers, athletes, and numerous weddings. It has contributed a century's worth of memories to Saint Paul and the surrounding community.

Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the Centennial Anniversary of The Saint Paul Hotel and its contributions to the rich history of the city of Saint Paul and the state of Minnesota.